

Participation in early childhood education by sex (children aged 3 and over) (sdg_04_31)

ESMS Indicator Profile (ESMS-IP)

Compiling agency: Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union

Eurostat metadata

Reference metadata

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Eurostat Quality Profile

4.5. Source data	ESS
5.1. Frequency of dissemination	Every year
5.2. Timeliness	T+2 years
6.1. Reference area	All EU MS
6.2. Comparability - geographical	All EU MS
6.3. Coverage - Time	5 to 10 years
6.4. Comparability - over time	> 4 data points

Description of Eurostat quality grading system under the following [link](#).

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [Eurostat user support](#)

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1. Contact Top	
1.1. Contact organisation	Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union
1.2. Contact organisation unit	E2: Environmental statistics and accounts; sustainable development
1.5. Contact mail address	e-mail contact : ESTAT-SDG-MONITORING@ec.europa.eu

2. Metadata update Top	
2.1. Metadata last certified	27/05/2024

2.2. Metadata last posted	27/05/2024
2.3. Metadata last update	27/05/2024

3. Relevance

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The indicator is part of the EU Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator set. It is used to monitor progress towards SDG 4 on quality education; which is embedded in the European Commission's Priorities under 'A Europe fit for a digital age', 'An economy that works for people' and 'Promoting our European way of life'.

SDG 4 seeks to ensure people have access to equitable and quality education through all stages of life, from early childhood education and care, through primary and secondary schooling, to technical, vocational training and tertiary education.

The Council of the European Union on 26 February 2021 adopted the [Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond \(2021–2030\)](#), a framework that addresses five strategic priorities: (1) Improving quality, equity, inclusion and success for all in education and training; (2) Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality for all; (3) Enhancing competences and motivation in the education profession; (4) Reinforcing European higher education; and (5) Supporting green and digital transitions in and through education and training.

As early childhood education and care are increasingly recognised as an integral part of the education and training system, the [Council Resolution](#) sets the EU target for participation in early childhood education and care to be at least 96% of children between three years old and the starting age for compulsory primary education by 2030.

4. Statistical Indicator

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4.1. Data description

The indicator measures the share of the children between the age of three and the starting age of compulsory primary education who participated in early childhood education and care (ECEC) which can be classified as ISCED level 0 according to the International Standard Classification for Education (ISCED 2011). In order for ECEC programmes to be classified as ISCED level 0, they must be intentionally designed to support a child's cognitive, physical and socio-emotional development. The starting age of compulsory primary education varies across countries. The participation of children in programmes which are not intentionally designed to support child development (such as childcare-only programmes), is not included in this indicator.

4.2. Unit of measure

% of the population between 3 years old and the starting age of compulsory primary education

4.3. Reference Period

School year

4.4. Accuracy - overall

The indicator is produced according to the high-level quality standards of European Statistics. Details on accuracy can be found in the metadata of the source datasets (see link to related metadata).

4.5. Source data

ESS

Data source: European Statistical System (ESS); UOE data collection on education statistics (for enrolment data) and Eurostat population statistics (for population statistics)

Data provider: Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, based on data reported by the countries.

5. Frequency and Timeliness of dissemination [Top](#)

5.1. Frequency of dissemination

Every year

Indicator is disseminated annually. Complete and updated ESS data release information can be accessed via [Eurostat release calendar](#).

5.2. Timeliness

T+2 years

New data points are disseminated within two years after the reference year .

6. Coverage and comparability [Top](#)

6.1. Reference area

All EU MS

Data are presented for all EU Member States plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

6.2. Comparability - geographical

All EU MS

Data are comparable between all EU Member States respectively other presented countries.

6.3. Coverage - Time

5 to 10 years

Presented times series (including EU aggregates) starts in 2013.

6.4. Comparability - over time

> 4 data points

Length of comparable time series without methodological break is more than 4 data points.

7. Accessibility and clarity [Top](#)

7.1. Dissemination format - Publications

Analysis of indicator is presented in Eurostat's annual monitoring report on Sustainable development in the EU (progress towards SDGs in the EU context).

7.2. Dissemination format - online database

see table [sdg_04_31](#)

7.3. Dissemination format - other

Eurostat dedicated section on SDGs: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/overview>

8. Comment [Top](#)

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Pupils and students - enrolments (educ_uae_enr) Metadata
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